

**MARICOPA COUNTY  
DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERLY REPORT**

**Second Quarter Report, FY 2000/01  
Office of the Legal Advocate, Susan Sherwin**

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Accomplishments/Comments</b>
1. Maintain an optimal level of staffing relative to caseload projections	<p>The Office of the Legal Advocate has been phasing in staff as caseloads have burgeoned.</p> <p>A. Adult Representation: We are now fully staffed. We have converted one of our trial attorney positions to an appellate attorney position, and are taking all PCR/pleas that would otherwise be assigned to contract counsel. We are also reviewing all major felonies (both downtown &amp; SEF) that are referred to OCC and accepting all those that do not present an actual legal conflict.</p> <p>B. Juvenile Advocacy: Pamela Eaton has been appointed Chief of this division, with a mandate to analyze caseload levels and implement our strategic goals. To that end, she has begun a caseload audit and will be reorganizing the division as appropriate.</p>
2. Develop a method of weighting criminal cases and quantifying their complexity. and 3. Capture the statistical data necessary to demonstrate and reflect the services provided by this Office.	<p>With the cooperation of the County's IT staff, we retained a consultant to maximize the statistical tracking ability of our Time Matters software. We are represented by one of our senior attorneys on the IR case weighting committee, and hope to have some results from that committee soon.</p> <p>Our software is also tracking the time invested in our cases. Once we have a statistically significant database, we can analyze the data and report our findings.</p>
4. Work cooperatively with the other Departments in the Indigent Representation Agency to provide appropriate service to our clients and the public in a cost-effective manner.	<p>A. Legal Advocate administration continues to administer the non-contract aspects of the Office of Contract Counsel, including purchasing, hiring, accounts payable, payroll, budget and support staff supervision.</p> <p>B. The Adult Representation Division continues to accept cases as direct assignments from arraignment court as well as transfer of cases from which the Public Defender and Legal Defender have withdrawn at various stages of the litigation. In addition, we are accepting major felony cases at both Superior Court facilities.</p> <p>C. The Juvenile Advocacy Division continues to accept cases, usually post-dependency but pre-permanency, from which contract attorneys withdraw after having received payment. This is projected to result in significant savings in contract payments.</p>